



IFES Quarterly Report: April 1, 2005- June 31, 2005

Electoral Assistance in Kyrgyzstan

USAID Associate Agreement No. 116-A-00-05-00003-00

Under Leader Agreement DGC-A-00-01-00004-00

Project Period:

Total Budget: \$372,070 Expenses Recorded to Date: \$172,506

Results Summary/Impact Statement

IFES procured and distributed supplemental ink, batteries and ultraviolet readers for all electoral precincts in the Kyrgyz Republic for the July 2005 Presidential elections. In June, in the run up to what would be only the second ever use nationally of voter ink, IFES again integrated seminars on its use in poll worker trainings conducted nationally accompanied by a voter education campaign supervised by an experienced international voter education and voter inking expert.

Background

On October 22, 2004, a law was introduced allowing for the use of inking to mark voters in elections and prevent citizens from voting twice. The U.S. Government committed that the United States would assist the provision of the inking and special lights to expose the ink on people's hands, as well as the necessary training to go with it. During the February 2005 Parliamentary elections, IFES carried out this pledge by delivering ink, equipment and trainings. The experience was one of widespread acceptance of inking by the electorate and the media, thanks to trainings and an education campaign preceding the election. Following the unexpected ouster of the Akaev regime on March 24 2005, IFES again implemented the USAID-funded inking program.

Activities

While precincts had been previously furnished with inking commodities by IFES for the February 2005 Parliamentary elections, IFES stocktaking of precinct inking supplies in April and May 2005 revealed that top-up supplies would definitely be needed for the Presidential elections. Based on this, in June 2005, Danish Camp Supply delivered to IFES UV stain, (6,000 bottles of ink), UV lights (2,500 readers) along with 9,000 AA batteries to supply these and existing readers. This was then distributed to augment shortfalls in Precinct Election Commission (PEC) supplies. An average polling station requires on average four bottles of spray, two UV lights, and eight batteries to offer coverage on election day, while the provincial (oblast) commissions needed reserves in case of a run-off election. Throughout June, IFES again ensured that there would be sufficient UV stain and UV lights for each PEC, as well as additional batteries to enable the lights to be used for the entire Election Day as well as run-off elections.

A second printing of the poster used during the parliamentary elections was produced by IFES in Kyrgyz and Russian versions (4000 copies) and Kyrgyz/Uzbek (2000) for public awareness campaigns and distributed throughout the country. A voter education and voter inking expert, with extensive prior experience of inking programs in Afghanistan, Georgia and Ethiopia, came to Kyrgyzstan under the agreement and supervised IFES overall voter education efforts to ensure that they adequately addressed the inking issue, as well as designing new materials to integrate with trainings and youth voter outreach activities. She also advised on issues relating to the testing of ink reserves, the distribution of ink and its correct storage.

Simultaneously, in June 2005 IFES implemented a nationwide poll worker training program for poll workers across Kyrgyzstan under a State Department/DRL project. As in the February 2005 parliamentary elections, IFES again piggy-backed trainings by adding a half-day training component on the use of the UV stain and lamps, as well as on processing and checking voters. IFES again prepared a section on inking in the updated and revised poll worker training manual issued for the presidential elections.

Renewed trainings for poll workers in the use of ink proved vital, as under the terms of Kyrgyz electoral law the previous polling commissions had been dissolved. In the face of political pressure to widen the composition of polling commissions, in many instances inexperienced poll workers were recruited with little or no prior experience in election administration, making the IFES trainings in polling station administration and use of ink as vital as they had been for the Parliamentary elections in February 2005.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter

The period of July 1-09 saw the successful completion of ink and commodity distribution, as well as extensive testing by IFES monitoring teams of the ink reserves being held in each province (oblast) to ensure the integrity of the ink. July 10, the Presidential Election Day, would see the widespread and successful use of voter inking for the second time in Kyrgyzstan. The quarterly report for July will address IFES' assessment of the effectiveness of the inking program and address recommendations on the likely future role of voter inking in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Attachments:

Fig. 1 IFES Voter Education Poster Explaining Inking Procedure



1. Шайлоочууну сыя менен белгиленген бармагыны ультрафиолет жарыгында ушундай көрүнөт.
2. Бармакка чачылган сыя бир нече секунддун ичинде кургайт.
3. Белгилөөчү сыя көзгө көрүнбөйт, ал ультрафиолет жарыгында гана байкалат.
4. Белгилөөчү сыя да, аны текшерүүчү ультрафиолет жарыгы да ден соолукка эч кандай зыян тийгизбейт.